

REMARKS

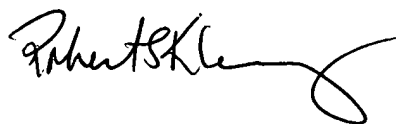
The claims have been amended to comply with U.S. practice. Original claims 1-9 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 10-18, respectively. The new claims eliminate multiple dependent claims, indefinite language, and include antecedent basis for all claimed elements. No substantively new matter has been added.

In view of the above, Applicant believes that the amended claims conform to standard U.S. practice, and are now in condition for allowance. Applicant requests consideration and early allowance of the amended claims.

Date: *June 09, 2005*

Vesuvius USA Corporation
27 Nobletown Road
Carnegie, PA 15106-1632
Tel: 412-269-6921
Fax: 412-276-7252

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Klemz", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert S. Klemz
Reg. No. 46,305